



TOWN OF BEAUX ARTS VILLAGE

TOWN BULLETIN

MARCH 2005

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|---------------------|----------|--------|
| BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT | April 6 | Murray |
| PLANNING COMMISSION | April 21 | Hobbs |
| TOWN COUNCIL | April 5 | Rose |
| WABA | April 7 | Sharp |

E-MAIL ADDRESS: townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov

WEBSITE: www.beauxarts-wa.gov

SALES TAX NUMBER: #1703

LOCKING MAILBOXES: Given this latest incident of mail theft, if residents are interested in purchasing locking mailboxes, we have two options: the Town can organize a bulk purchase at reduced price (20% less than regular retail price) if at least 20 people participate –OR– residents may purchase their locking mailboxes directly. One source is Security Safe & Lock near the intersection of Main Street and Bellevue Way. They supplied the locking mailboxes residents purchased last spring. **IF INTERESTED IN THE BULK PURCHASE, PLEASE CONTACT CLERK-TREASURER SUE ANN SPENS by phone at 425-454-8580 or by email at townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov NO LATER THAN APRIL 4, 2005.**

MORE HELP ONLINE FOR EAGLE REGULATIONS: The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided a map showing the locations of our resident eagle nests and the regulations that may your property depending on its distance from these nests. If you plan any constructions activity or tree-cutting, please review the map and regulations on the Town's website www.beauxarts-wa.gov and contact Julie Stofel at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife in Mill Creek, 1.425.379.2301 or eagle4@dfw.wa.gov, for detailed guidance.

COUNCIL BUSINESS: Highlights from the March 8th Council meeting include:

- Discussed forming a committee to assist in developing an emergency response plan for the Village that draws upon the expertise and many talents of Village residents. Emergency response agencies warn that residents in the region need to be prepared to “take care of themselves” for three days in the event of an emergency or natural disaster that causes significant damage to the area’s infrastructure. The Beaux Arts Village plan would formalize how each of us can best help one another during that three-day period.
- Discussed the Planning Commission’s ongoing work on revisions to the Town’s Zoning Code, including changes to the maximum height of structures and refinements to allow some landscape features in setbacks. Members of the Planning Commission are to be commended for the thorough approach they have taken thus far to the task before them. Watch for hearing notices on your mailstand announcing public hearings before both the Planning Commission and the Council.
- Confirmed the appointment of Karen Scott to the Planning Commission replacing former-Commissioner Andy Stefan for a six-year term expiring on December 31, 2010.

REMINDER - NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL: Thanks to the 75+ households that have provided email addresses, **we are just about ready to launch a new method of delivering the Town newsletter** and hope to make the switch in the next month or two. If you haven’t yet sent your email address to the Town Clerk, please take a moment to do so by sending a note to townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov; we promise it will remain confidential – even other newsletter recipients won’t be able to see it.

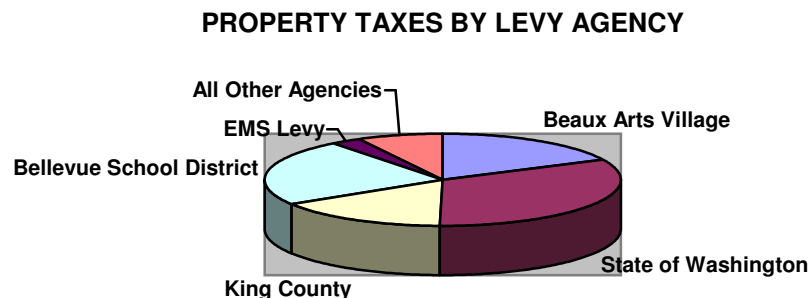
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The next regular Council meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on April 5, 2005 at John Rose’s house, 10317 SE 29th Street. Please note that this is a special meeting to be held one week before the Council’s regular meeting day. The regular April Council meeting will not be held.

A PROPERTY TAX PRIMER: As the due date for property taxes approaches, some residents may wonder why their property tax bills seem to go up each year by more than the 1% maximum increase allowed by state statute. We hope that this primer will answer some of your questions.

- First, it is important to know that the 1% increase limit applies to the town’s base property tax, i.e. the Town may not increase its total property-tax levy (in dollars) by more than 1% of the prior year’s levy. However, if the values of some properties in Town increase more than others, the owners of the properties experiencing greater increases may see their property-tax bills

increase by more than the 1% limit (while properties with lesser increases will increase by less than 1%). Property values are set by the King County Department of Assessments.

- Second, only 17.6% of the total property-tax bill for an average home in the Beaux Arts is levied by the Town. The remaining 82.4% is levied by other agencies outside of the Town's control, e.g. the State of Washington gets 32.7% for state school support and other state agencies, King County gets 15.7%, the Bellevue School District gets 23.4%, and other agencies get the final 10.6%. This pie chart shows the relative size of each agency's slice of the property-tax pie for the average homeowner in the Town of Beaux Arts Village.



SEWER BILL INCREASES: Some residents have called the Water Department asking about increases in their sewer bills. Some background: Sewer services are provided by the City of Bellevue (COB), which calculates billing volumes based on water-usage data provided annually by the Beaux Arts Water Dept. The water-usage data is developed based on consumption volumes for each property during the six months of October through April of the prior winter, e.g. October 2003 through April 2004 data were used to calculate the new sewer bills you are now receiving. New residents who did not occupy their current homes during that period are reported to COB as having no data to report. In these cases, COB estimates sewer usage based on the usage of the prior occupants of the home. The City of Bellevue updates billing volumes once each year. The increase you may be seeing is due to two factors:

- METRO, the waste-water utility for the region, increased the rates they charge other utilities by about 12%.
- Your water usage during the period October-April may have increased.

If you believe your sewer bill has increased due to an error in water usage, please contact Clerk-Treasurer Spens by email at townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov or by phone

at 425.454.8580 so that I can verify the water usage figures reported to COB and help you contact COB to make corrections.

NEED TO CONTACT TOWN STAFF?

- Contact **Clerk-Treasurer Sue Ann Spens** if you need to speak to someone about **issues before the Council, general Town business, or Water-Department concerns**. You can reach her by email at townhall@beauxarts-wa.gov, by phone at (425) 454-8580, or by regular mail at 10550 SE 27th Street, Beaux Arts, WA 98004.
- Contact **Deputy Clerk Betsy Donworth** if you need information, applications, or other assistance with **permits, variances, or issues before the Planning Commission or Board of Adjustment**. She can be reached by email at bldgdept@beauxarts-wa.gov, by phone at (425) 453-0235, or by regular mail at 10550 SE 27th Street, Beaux Arts, WA 98004.

SPRING TOWN CLEAN-UP:

Please mark you calendars for this spring's Town Clean-Up: Saturday, April 30, from 9AM to noon.

In mid-April you will receive a call from your Block Captain who will tell you about organized projects with which you can help. Your participation by either working on the Town property adjacent to your property, or by helping with one of your block captain's projects, would be very much appreciated. Four dumpsters will be provided, two pick-up trucks will circulate throughout the Village to pick up compostable material only from Town property, and a refreshment car will also circulate. Please participate and help maintain our rights-of-way, while enjoying refreshments and the company of your neighbors.

When your Block Captain calls, please provide her with your e-mail address so that future Town Clean-Up contacts can be done by e-mail, rather than telephone. If you have any suggestions or questions, call your Block Captain or Robin Stefan. A map indicating Block Captain's areas of responsibilities will be included in the upcoming Green Book update.

In addition to special projects, normal work party tasks include:

1. Remove ivy from trees
2. Trim foliage back from signs, intersections, house numbers, and edges of the street
3. Clean up leaves from streets and storm drains.

A few Town Clean-Up reminders:

- * Dumpster locations will be posted on the mailbox stands
- * Dumpsters and pick up service is only for compostable material from rights-of-way.
- * Leave this material at curbside only before noon on April 30, as trucks will not pick up after that and you will then need to transport debris to the dumpsters.
- * You are encouraged to work on the rights-of-way between 9AM and noon, so as to enjoy refreshments, the company of fellow Villagers, and truck pickups. However if these hours don't work for you, the dumpsters will be available all weekend, so you can work other times.
- * If you are not available on this weekend and have piles you have already amassed, ask your block captain to arrange for them to be picked up.
- * If you are not able to work that weekend, please consider a donation to the Town which would support work party efforts.
- * We suggest you encourage your kids to participate and feel the pride and satisfaction of contributing to their Town.
- * Thank you – all efforts are appreciated.

NEW ADOPT A PLANT PROGRAM:

The last couple of years have seen an increase in replanting of native species at the beach and on Town right-of-way areas. If you are planning a new design for your yard and will be replacing existing plantings, or if your plants are getting crowded and you want to thin them out, please consider donating your excess plants to the new Village Adopt-a-Plant Program. Your donations can then be used for Town or WABA fall replanting projects. This recycling plant program is a great way to keep our expenses lower and reduce waste.

We hope that Villagers will find this a convenient way to make landscaping changes and also support community planting projects. To donate plants, please call or e-mail Julia Morse (juliamorse@comcast.net), and she will add your unwanted plants to our Village Adopt-a-Plant list.

WABA NEWS

WABA Assessment:

The annual WABA assessment of \$500. is due on or before March 31.
If not paid it will accrue interest at 12%.

Mail it or drop it off at-

Gerri Armbruster
10305 SE 27St.
454-1344

This assessment does not include the special assessment to meet legal expenses,
That assessment will be announced at a later date.

Thanks from the WABA Treasurer

ANNUAL ROAD CLOSURE:

The annual WABA beach road closures will be this April 6, a Wednesday. Please plan accordingly! Contact Chuck Thulin with questions.

WABA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

WABA volunteer positions still available for the year include a summer picnic co-chair (1), a beach mom (1) and assistants (2), and Halloween pizza party chairs (2) and assistants (3). If you missed the Winter Dinner and the chance to sign up, it is not too late! We also need three telephone volunteers to help us fill volunteer spaces for the multitude of tasks involved in getting the beach ready for another fine summer. Please contact Julia Morse to volunteer. (juliamorse@comcast.net) A big thanks to Bo Harpster for getting a bi-monthly playgroup together for our preschoolers! If you would like to join us, call Julia (451-2515) to get on the e-mail list.

PLAYHOUSE:

Finally, with the generous donation of the playhouse from the Molbaks, we are taking a good look at the play area and are interested in input from families whose children use it. Our goal is to generate ideas for sprucing up and improving the area before the spring work party. If you have ideas and/or would be willing to help with this project, please contact Julia.

MISSING LEAFBLOWER:

The WABA leaf blower is missing from the shed. We hope one of you has borrowed it. If you have any idea where it is please call Jan Johnston (425-454-6151). We would love to have it back so we can clean the tennis court and the parking lots.

ANNUAL SPRING BEACH CLEAN-UP:

The annual Spring Beach Clean-Up is scheduled for May 14th this year. We hope you will come and join your neighbors for mid-morning coffee and donuts plus a picnic lunch with hot dogs and hamburgers at the south fire pit.

There are many annual tasks and special projects to do this year. Jeff Elston, Jeff Kendall, Chuck Lowry, Henry Heckendorn, Julia Morse, John Sharp, Steve Tegeler, and Bob and Nancy VanDerHorn signed up for jobs at the winter dinner. We hope you will volunteer for a special job or just come and join other Villagers for a fun and productive day.

The special things we hope to accomplish are:

- pressure wash the bathroom floors
- pressure wash the docks
- paint the bathroom floors
- paint the bathroom doors
- paint over the damaged areas of the tennis court concrete wall
- paint the basketball backstops
- paint the low diving board support
- seal the tennis backboard
- seal the picnic table tops
- spread and rake chips at the play structure
- add a chain to the garbage can racks

If you cannot attend the work party you can still help by doing a job at your convenience. Call Jan Johnston if you would like to work at some other time. She will see you have the equipment you need and get you started.

Beside the jobs listed above we also need someone with mechanical skills to oversee the maintenance of the mowers and someone with carpentry skills to upgrade the foundation of the new playhouse.